

Going Away, Coming Back

**We must be away
We can no longer stay**

**We must go
We are gone**

**We have our ways
Words, jigs, reels, song**

**We play on
We stay strong**

**We will come back
We will give back
We will bring back
We will be back**

**To stay
To stay**

A Choir's Song

I'll be with you in this world and the next,

wherever you go.

I'll be there out of sight, in the light of a dawn,

or from the height of a flying swan.

You'll forget, but then you'll know I am there,

you'll know.

You'll be blessed with love, made strong by loss,

and lifted by life.

You'll know the world loves you,

by the warm sound of your name.

And someday a choir's song,

will rejoice you came.

A Silver Sixpence

She gave to me, a silver sixpence. I gave to her, my last goodbye

She gave to me, a silver sixpence. I said to her, my love don't cry

I travelled south, into the sunrise. She travelled back, to our happy home.

I went into, a sea of trouble. She sat alone, one tear, one sigh

She gave to me, a silver sixpence. I gave to her, my last goodbye

She gave to me, a silver sixpence. I said to her, my love don't cry

I walked into, the hail of gunfire. She walked beside me, all the way

I fell that day, into the darkness. She came to me, and said don't cry

She gave to me, a silver sixpence. I gave to her, my last goodbye

She gave to me, a silver sixpence. I said to her, my love don't cry

I searched inside, my tunic pocket. I found my love's coin, in blood red dye

I held it tight, onto my cold lips. I heard here voice, my love don't cry

She gave to me, a silver sixpence. I gave to her, my last goodbye

She gave to me, a silver sixpence. I said to her, my love don't cry

I felt her hand, take me a long way. Way back to, our happy home

I kissed her lips, she smiled a song sigh. I kissed her tear my love don't cry.

She gave to me, a silver sixpence. I gave to her, my last goodbye

She gave to me, a silver sixpence. I said to her, my love don't cry

The Politician's Lie

**He was five foot seven and was made to fight
He was hard right through and was will not might
He was steelwork born and miner bred
And was first in line when MacLean led**

**He was bright and true, but not from school
He knew right from wrong and the old rule
He was formed of love but showed no yield
And he spilt his blood on Flanders field**

**She was five feet one and was made to cry
She was born for weans and the humble pie
She was third of eight in a single end
Making ends meet with the dividend**

**She worked for the factory and munitions tsars
And she fought the factors at the close mooth stairs
She died before her time so her weans could thrive
And she was buried alone in a pauper's grave**

**And the wars still come and the young still die
And nothing is learned through their camel's eye
Their oil is god and the coal is heathen
And the workers still fight for a daft man's heaven**

**From what once came from the pit and the peat
To now what is mined in the land of the east
From those and their means to those in their need
To those and their lies to those in their greed**

**And the weans grow up in the new world truths
To take what's theirs and also what's yours
For what is important in this land today
Greed and creed and not need they say**

**He's seventeen years and he's meant just to lose
He's scheme-trap born and he'll bleed and he'll use
She's as old as her tears and she drinks for esteem
Her weans are her fears and not just her dreams**

**And why were they here and what did they mean?
And what did they say and what did we learn?
Some just struggle and others just thrive**

The Politics of greed – The Politician's lie

Field of words

**Roam a field of words
Discover a literal vastness
Pick bunches of colourful phrases
Follow a well worn path of kindness
Feed a wondrous crop of stories
Reap this harvest**

**In that terrain of composition
Find the tree of humanity
Stop and take shade awhile
Enjoy the fruit of its sincerity
Digest the thought that nurtured it
With wealth of experience and dexterity**

**Through lovingly ploughed lines go
Stopping for smile or sigh
Admiring skill in pen or hoe
Under pretentious light or cloudless sky
Rows of carefully planted words
Season as time rolls relentlessly by**

**Explore those words alike a stroll
Under blue lit skies, childhoods can go
Days of air and green, and fields of life
Summer streams and winter snow
Human nature is nature at its spring
Human words its autumn fling**

Tale of Clutha Bar

**It was Friday night babe, in the Clutha,
A good friend said to me, might no' see another one
And then he sang a song, a rare old mountain dew
I turned my face away, and thought about you**

**Got up another one, this time a large one
I had a feeling this night's for me and you
So happy Christmas, I love you baby
There'll be other times, when all our dreams
come true**

**They had hearts big as carts
They were a whole lot of soul
When the roof came right in
It was a place for the bold
When he first took my hand
On that late Sat'rday Eve
He promised me you would be waiting for me**

**He was handsome, not pretty
Son of Glasgow City
When the band finished playing
He dragged me through the door**

**The place it was swinging
All the folk they were singing
We embraced on the corner
Then we talked through the night**

**And the boys of the Esperanza band
Were singing all the way
And the bells were ringing
Out for us that day**

**You're a pal
You're a mate
We're wi' an old friend called fate
So strange, just bizarre, in that heap in the bar**

**A brave man, a giant
A great big defiant
Happy was I, it was him
I prayed God, please not me.**

**He could have been anyone
But he was just the one
He made my dreams come true
Until I found you**

**He kept me with you babe
Made sure I was not alone
Couldn't make it on my own
He made my dreams come true**

**And the boys of the Esperanza band
Were singing all the way
And the bells were ringing
Out for us that day**

The Glance

**You looked and felt as I felt
It was in your surreptitious glance
A breathless, fleeting, eternal second
I saw love in your candid trance
To convey that thought an urgent word
Would drawl in imminence**

You are

**The love of my life, and only you know it
The light in my life, and yet I can't show it
The life in my soul, and only I live it
The pain in my heart, and only you heal it**

Love

**Two skins touch – in tingling tune
Grasped now – fearing separation
Eyes locked - condemning movement
Heart and mind - in syncopation**

Sorry

**Saying sorry isn't good enough, you're too good for that - I'm not
I didn't realise what I had in you, what you were - what I got
I hurt you, I made you cry. I know now, why
My being open, telling the truth, it hurt not to lie**

**All anyone has are memories; some have a lifetime, I had some time
Nothing lasts but thoughts, and nothing remains but ghosts
You are in me, I can get you out - my life with you is within and without
My cross is one that I built, my 'sorry' to you, my burden of guilt.**

The ends of my world

**I will be your lover, I will be your lover, I will be your lover,
at the end of the world**

**I loved her when I met her, loved her when I met her, loved her when I met her
on the very first day**

I will be your lover, I will be your lover, I will be your lover, at the end of the world

**Said would always love you, said would always love you, said would always love you,
at my very last day**

I will be your lover, I will be your lover, I will be your lover, at the end of the world

She tells a great story, she tells a great story, she tells a great story, at the end of the day

I will be your lover, I will be your lover, I will be your lover, at the end of the world

**We made our lives together, made our lives together, made our lives together, through
the very hard days**

I will be your lover, I will be your lover, I will be your lover, at the end of the world

We shared so many joys, shared so many joys, shared so many joys, in our own special way

I will be your lover, I will be your lover, I will be your lover, at the end of the world

**Our friends were always true, friends were always true, friends were always true,
in their own caring way**

I will be your lover, I will be your lover, I will be your lover, at the end of the world

**We shared a few good songs, shared a few good songs, shared a few good songs, on our paths
on the way**

I will be your lover, I will be your lover, I will be your lover, at the end of the world

We lift up our glasses, lift up our glasses, lift up our glasses, good health to us all

I will be your lover, I will be your lover, I will be your lover,

at the end of the world

In my mind

In my mind, I doubt if I'll ever see you again, but doesn't mean to say I don't

In my head, I doubt if I'll ever talk to you again, but doesn't mean to say I can't

In my heart, I doubt if I'll ever love you again, but doesn't mean to say I don't

In my body, I doubt if I'll ever have you again, but doesn't mean to say I wouldn't

In my life, I doubt if I'll ever know you again, but doesn't mean to say I don't

In my arms, I doubt if I'll ever feel you again, but doesn't mean to say I can't

In my shame, I doubt if I'll ever hurt you again, but doesn't mean to say I didn't

In my loss, I doubt if I'll ever please you again, but doesn't mean to say I couldn't

Time

Time heals everything they say

And as time passes from day to day

We find the pain of losing

Gradually fades away

But pain is one thing and thought another

And even though we find the hurt diminish

As time goes by

Precious memories will never die

Time stands still for no man

And when you think you have a plan

Your hopes and aspirations can be squashed

In the almighty's all-knowing hand

But hate or bad feeling must never be felt

Because life so precious and true

Should be grasped and enviously held

No matter how long or how short life was for you

You'll never know what you'll never know

**You'll never know what you'll never know
You'll never go where you'll never go
You'll never show what you ought to show
Were this not so you'd clearly know**

**There was a time, not long ago
When life was good with love for show
When hope was pure, didn't you know
We let it go, we let it go**

**When fate calls to judge us all
You'll need to know what you didn't know
When asked if I was truth or lie
You'll never know what you'll never know**

**Too many times you told me so
Your love was cold our dreams were old
I wouldn't know what I refused to know
I wouldn't go where I had to go**

**Now it seems so long ago
And now I know what I've got to know
You're love had gone so long ago
And I didn't know what I didn't know
That you told me so, you told me so**

**There's one thing you ought to know
My love was real, I told you so
And for what you know of me, for all you know
You'll never know what you'll never know**

**If you were to know what you didn't know
You'd really know what you ought to know
And if it were ever though like long ago
We'd never know what we'd never know**

**And if you feel you really know
What my feelings were when you didn't show
You'll never know
What you'll never know**

**But there's one thing you ought to know
When you think of me and all the woe
I loved you so
I loved you so**

She was drunker than me

And when I got up in the morning, must have been quarter to three, I played on my fiddle, a fiddle de diddle, but she was drunker than me mi Lord, she was drunker than me.

And then it last late in the morning, time for a cup of the tea. I put on the kettle, and tested her mettle, but she was drunker than me mi lord, she was drunker than me.

And then it was time for the opening, time for a drink just for me. I ordered a whisky, to make myself frisky, but she was drunker than me, mi lord, she was dunker than me.

And then there was a bit of a bevy, a few for my friends and for me. She ordered a dozen, and then got some more in, and she was drunker than me. mi lord, she was drunker than me.

And then there was a bit of a barney, a punch or two just for free. She gave me at tanking and then a real spanking, and she was drunker than me, mi lord, she was drunker than me.

And then we were out in the open, must have been quarter to three, she gave me a doin', a bollocking bruising, but she was drunker than me, mi lord, she was drunker than me.

And then we got into a taxi, no money or cash for the fee, she gave him a shilling and knocked out his filling, cause she was drunker than me, mi lord, she was drunker than me.

And then we were in front of the sergeant, charged with B of the P. She said she was guilty, but only of being silly and 'he was drunker than me,' she said, he was drunker than me.

And then I was in front of the sheriff, he's as guilty as charged, said he. I said I was silly for having this filli, that she was drunker than me, mi lord, she was drunker than me.

He sent me to the slammer with a bash of his hammer, sent away one to three.

She waved me away then, went back to the drinking, and she got drunker than me, mi lord.

She got drunker than me.

For three months I played on my fiddle, me fiddle di didle, then home I did go hastily. I found her in bed with a big red head, and he was dunker than me, mi lord, he was drunker than me.

And now I have repented, pride verily dented, and me filli a dillie is filli di free. But I was so silly for having this filli, that she was drunker than me, mi lord, she was drunker than me.

The Father

The father is the right and is also the wrong.

He is often the might and sometimes the strong

He shows the path, protecting the way

And God forgive him if he goes astray.

Be good, be strong, be wise, be wrong

Be meek, be bold, be weak, be brave

Be love, be warm, be there, be gone

Be mine, be his, be ours, be yours

Be young, be old, be less, be more

The Father is all and yet he is none

He is the son, the mother the one

He often provides, yet sometimes denies

Damned if he does, failed if he cries

Be good, be strong, be wise, be wrong

Be meek, be bold, be brave, be weak

Be love, be warm, be there, be gone

Be mine, be his, be ours, be yours

Be young, be old, be less, be more

Just the Same

**You may remember your first faltering steps
And you reached for me and my hands 'til you were safe
And then you crossed your world on your own
But my hands were behind you just the same**

**Then your steps moved to a run on the ground
And no fear was in your mind as you came down
I wiped the tears from your eyes and cleaned your knees
And I was there behind you just the same**

**And oh but you felt alone
And oh you thought you were grown
And oh but you were never alone
Because I was there behind you just the same**

**And you'll recall you first steps in the adult world
When you opened your heart to the world
And you'll remember the pain when you lost a love
But I was there beside you just the same**

**And when life's fears served to slow your steps to find your life
And when the fear of losing all you loved stopped you short
And when you thought you could walk no more
I was there beside you just the same**

**And though you didn't know it
And although you didn't want these hands
And although I didn't show it
I was there right beside just the same**

**And your own reached for you on life's path
And you are there right beside them just the same
And you remember your own faltering steps
And how I was there beside you just the same**

**And when their life's fears are upon you
And your troubles serve to bear heavily on you
I'll be there beside you just the same
And when I am gone and you find you're alone
You are not alone because
I'll be there beside you just the same**

Senses without sight

**I can feel the wind blow
I can feel the sun glow
I can feel what others cannot feel**

**I can hear the seas crash
I can hear the rains lash
I can hear the music played so fine**

**And I will know that when my time is coming to its end
And I will know that where I go there'll be no darkness then
No my friend, no darkness then, no darkness then**

**I can touch a cold hand
I can touch the warm sand
I can touch the loved ones that are mine
I can smell the logs burn
I can smell the milk churn
I can smell the food cooked so fine**

**And I will know that when my time is coming to its end
And I will know that where I go, there'll be no darkness then
No my friend, no darkness then, no darkness then**

I am a Scot

**I am a Scot, and I will fight for you
True to the end, I will see it through
Highlands, Lowlands, Borders, Islands too**

I am a Scot, my heart belongs to you

**Seeking our right, we must now go forth
Steady on course, for all our worth
A miner's courage and a steelman's will**

Following a destiny we must fulfil

**Now's the day and now's the time
A man's a man for auld langsyne
Freedom come all ye, on our bonnie banks**

No more the rogues in our nation

**All creeds and cultures, the Scot's family
All together, we will always be
Hand in hand for Caledonia**

Seeking a liberty, for Alba

**I am a Scot, and I will fight for you
True to the end, I will see it through
Highlands, Lowlands, Borders, Islands too**

I am a Scot, my heart belongs to you

Martin Luther King

**You taught us peace
When all and everyone was against you
You taught us peace
When frustrated with injustice
You taught us peace
When faced with those who would take your life
You taught us peace**

**You gave us hope
When we thought all was lost
You gave us hope
When oppression and bigotry reigned on
You gave us hope
When my eyes were blinded from the glory
You gave us hope**

**You brought us joy
In the face of adversity
You brought us joy
In the depth of deception
You brought us joy
In the midst of uncertainty
You brought us joy**

**You spoke the truth
When sickened with lies and corruption
You spoke the truth
When tormented by narrow-mindedness
You spoke the truth
When you truth itself was threatened
You spoke the truth**

**You showed us charity
With your never ending selflessness
You showed us charity
With your undying humanitarianism
You showed us charity
With your martyrdom, even in death
You showed us charity**

**You had your dream
Though tormented by racial nightmare
You had your dream
Though faced with poverty and deprivation
You had your dream
Though you never saw it come true
You had your dream**

Just stay put

Born of the 1960 Act

In run down dustbin on the old A8

The government said 'get them out'

Leave them in, the people shout

They're better in there than being out here

Keep them in, hold them in, drug them up, lock them up,

Just... stay... put!

Born of care in the community

In a run hostel in the old east end

The health board said, we're doing our best

They had to come out, they'd passed the test

They're better in here than being up there

Keep them in, hold them in, drug them up, lock them up

Just... stay... put!

Born of another daft wee law

In a private nursing home where no one cared

Who you were, what you were

All the things that that made you scared

You're better in there than being out here

Keep them in, lock them in, drug them up, pen them up

Just... stay... put!

Born on the back of another daft law

In a supported living flat with no way out

The budget's cut, so what I had has been

No' in my back yard, so I'm movin' back in

You're better in here than being out there

Take them in, keep them in, drug them up, lock them up

Just... stay... put!

Ode to a slug

**You're a competent wee slug
You're no mug
Here we are scurrying about, ulcers pending
Your big occasion is reachin' the stair landing**

**And they'll say
Poor wee slug, no ambition, no future
No admission of wasting your life away
But to find an old rug**

**But your hole's not mortgaged or subject to rates
No worry over domineering neighbours
A friendly worm more than compensates**

**Smallest of mollusks but brighter by far
Is your life worthless for lack of achievement
Or is ours for not perceiving it?**

Fight the peace

**I'm a working man, I take from no man
I'm proud of my people, together we stand
There's been pain, there is no way to heal
Just get on with it, no time to feel**

**We fought a war for the ruling kind
We thought it would change our world for our kind
We were wrong and now we pay their price
We fought the war now we fight the peace**

**There's never been a time when war's never been
There's never been a time when the poor's never seen
There's never been a time dirty hands were clean
And there's never been a time a child didn't dream**

**We fought a war for the ruling kind
We thought it would change our world for our kind
We were wrong and now we pay their price
We fought the war now we fight the peace**

**Again a lie took their bombs to the sky
They sought the land the weak occupy
The old, the innocent, the children, the poor
Friendly fire brought death to their door**

**We fought a war for the ruling kind
We thought it would change our world for our kind
We were wrong and now we pay their price
We fought the war now we fight the peace**

**Now here we are and nothing has changed
The fascists have gone but their doctrines remain
New rhetoric has replaced the sounds of their guns
The sins of the fathers – are the deeds of their sons**

The Warmonger

**Too many die, even less live
Ask yourself why yourself you give
In this damn war there is no light
Only hatred, greed, death and plight**

**There are those, my friend
Who hope it will never end
Because profit in peace there is no bread
But profit in peace in war through dying and dead**

**The warmonger is he who lives by death
To prolong suffering until his last breath
But maybe one day his time will come
By an assassin's bullet, only one**

**Through the tools of death his hands built
Will put to death those in guilt
They will die like all the others
Maybe then man can live like brothers**

**They call him the warmonger
Him and his factory of death
Fashioning arms to blow the earth asunder**

It's Time

**It's now the time to say goodbye
It's now the time that makes me cry
It's now the time to shed a tear
It's now the time to have no fear**

**But it's not the time to give up thoughts of happy days and childhood hopes
And all the times when love reigned true and happy days spent with you
And it's not the time to have regrets of things once said – should best forget
And it's not the time to resent – life's too short but seldom meant**

**And it's now the time to say goodnight
It's now the time to hold you tight
It's now the time to kiss your head
It's now the time to say what you wished you'd said**

**But it's not the time to give up thoughts of happy days and childhood hopes
And all the times when love reigned true and happy days spent with you
And it's not the time to have regrets of things once said – should best forget
And it's not the time to resent – life's too short but seldom meant**

**And it's not the time to forget your place
And what you meant and how much you're missed
And it's not quite time to forgive or forget
Not quite time - to move on yet**

**But it's not the time to give up thoughts of happy days and childhood hopes
And all the times when love reigned true and happy days spent with you
And it's not the time to have regrets of things once said – should best forget
And it's not the time to resent – life's too short but seldom meant**

**And it's now the time to sum you up
And it's now the time to give you up
And it's now the time to whisper low
It's now the time to let you go**

**But it's not the time to give up thoughts of happy days and childhood hopes
And all the times when love reigned true and happy days spent with you
And it's not the time to have regrets of things once said – should best forget
And it's not the time to resent – life's too short but seldom meant**

Show the way

**Where there is dark, the sun shines just out of view
When there is fear, a hand will reach for you
Where there's no way forth, there will be a path, you will see it
When the future's unknown, there will be truth, you will discover it
When and where determines your fate, you will accept it, and it you**

**There is a reason for everything, and in one lifetime it can't be seen
For your children, to theirs, a guide, a sign, a tale, a strength, a dream
Show the way, as best can, to live your life, to follow the sun
Then show the way, when the time is right, in your way, into the night.**

Not too soon

**Let me out, but not too soon
Let me out, let me see the moon
I have a right to live, to be
I have a right to exist like you
Let me out, but not too soon**

A Burnbank Lass (part one)

**How do you summarise a life, a woman with a heart?
How do you sum her up? Where do you start?
Easy, she always put herself last, after any other
So very true, but there was more to this mother**

**She was a wee girl once, bright and full of pep
Watchin' the Clydebank Blitz from a Burnbank step
She loved the dancin' wae her legs in clie
Frae a Burnbank burn the best you could buy**

**There was Mary, Agnes, John, Joy and her, and parents that cared
And they hidnae much but whit they had they shared
They were the Rooney lasses and bonnie as they come
From a happy hame, came my wee mum**

**She merit a man, Dom was his name
And they were given a room and she made it a hame
Then there were four in there, wi John and mase
And we went tae the School, aye, and this chapel as well**

**Well we found a hoose in a place called the Glebe
And then wi Joanne and Mary, she had mair weans tae feed
She tucked us up well and snug in our bed
Then went aff tae wait the tables and came hame half deid.**

**And times were hard when she went roon the doors
Wi the catalogues, and the dinner sets, we were oot for 'oors
And then there wis the charities, the blind and the disabled
And her buses that went fae the Glebe tae Pitcaple**

**Aye, she ran the buses and the charities as well
And she took them on board all those families fae hell
The guys that naebody trusted and everybody feared
She gave them a chance and they showed her they cared**

**And she was a young mum once and smelling so nice
Her perfume, her hanky, ma tongue, wiping my face,
And fast? Wi four bags ae messages, she was off like a train
Wi the two of us in her hands and in her arms, a wean**

**She worked in the Advertiser in her own wee domain
And in the nursing home she made it a hame
Stovies, mince, soup, and a pudding
And everybody's cup laid out just where they liked them**

**She was a worker that one, not much kept her down
The bi-pass tried but not for long
Since she was 14 she smoked like a lum
Gave them up, just like that, ma wee mum**

**And the guys in the supermarket, they gave her some cheek
And the woman at the tills, she saw them each week
She always had some kind words and cream buns for the men
And to let them know that all that mattered, was them**

A Burnbank Lass (part two)

**I mind a wee boy in the surgery creating mayhem
And her mother was just about to strangle him
Hallo son, is that *your* mammy?
And a sweetie, always in her pocket; just like *my* mammy**

**She climbed a long stair once to see her boy
Just after her heart attack, that wasn't any joy
Not for her, on my big day, to let me down
She made me what I am and kept my feet on the ground**

**She brought us up well, our own wee mum
She taught the four of us the secret to tell
To look after your family and care for their health
And never forget to be proud of yourself**

**If she hadn't been born, or not been what she was
We wouldn't be here today
But she had, and she was
And we're here because she did, in her own wee way**

**For all of us she touched, she'll live on in our hearts
In so many ways, known only to us, she'll be in our thoughts
Her example to us all, in what we only realise, at a time of ends
An unconditional love for her families and friends**

**She's saying to us all now, noo mind
To John, Joanne, Mary, all of yours and mine
And now were all here to say goodbye
And we're trying hard not to cry**

**But she knew you *all* would come
To see her off, wee Margaret our mum
She loved you all in her own special way
For you being here in this her very special day**

**Just remember, and thank god for her life
And mind the movie *It's a wonderful life*
The lives she wouldn't have touched, If she hadn't been born
But she had, and she did, and for that we need not mourn**

**So go now to your own mum, your dad, and your god
You've done your duty here and you've made us all so proud
Try not to be too sad, she would not want this at *her* mass
Just try to remember her as she was, a Burnbank lass**

Do not cry, I do not die

Do not cry, do not weep; I am here, I do not sleep

I am in an Ardnish dawn; coming towards you in the morn

I am inside, by the fire; rest with me, should you ever tire

**When you sleep in a troubled night, I am the murmur of gentle sheep,
the moon's protecting light, that star twinkling bright**

**When you awaken in the morning's hush, I am the rising rush, of
geese in southern flight**

I am the warm winds that blow; I am the crystal glints of snow

I am the sunlight that ripens grain; I am the gentle autumn rain.

I am the shadow, just look around; on your path, a gentle sound

I am the healing sea, the sand on your feet, and

Just off there, westerly; again, we both shall meet

I am here, I am near, my warm whisper will dry your tear

Do not cry; in your heart I do not die

Do not weep; in your heart I do not sleep

